

Reflecting on your practices



Do you know why you have each practice?

If you were to be asked about any of your practices, from why things are stored where they are, to how you program works, to how staff are inducted, would you know the reason behind them? If you don't know why, beyond "that's just the way we do it", then how do you know that it is best for you?



Do you know whether they support compliance?

Policies and procedures are created by organisations to represent how your practices will meet the compliance requirements. They are not the compliance requirements. Looking at the original compliance requirements when reviewing these internal documents will help ensure practices support compliance.



Do you know whether they support best practice?

Best practice recommendations come from evidence based research and theory that aligns with what is most likely to support the safety and wellbeing of children. Being willing to do some research, seeing what is driving current standards, and reflect on your practices can facilitate this.



Do you know whether they support stakeholders?

Your stakeholders change all the time, the needs of families now will be different to the needs of your families last year, let alone 20 years ago. If your practices are not reviewed in line with current children, families and educators then how do you know they are continuing to meet their needs?



Do you know whether they are contextualised?

Many services have adopted their practices from other services because they have seen it work, or they are familiar with it, or they are part of a larger organisation. This is often a good starting point but they should also be refined based on the needs of your context, as no 2 services are exactly the same.